

MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



February 6, 2026

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The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support With Amendment: House Bill 71: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program Services - Reimbursement (Youth Psychiatric Rehabilitation Parity Act of 2026)

Dear Chairwoman Bagnall & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1200 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS support House Bill 71 with the amendment as noted below. Youth Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP) services are a critical component of comprehensive mental health services for youth. PRP services offer a needed adjunct to psychotherapy and psychiatric care by providing the opportunity for youth to work on skills in personal environments. Guided social skills exercises or anger management strategies for youth in a group setting with other youth or in community settings are tremendously beneficial to overall clinical progress. Despite the recent struggles in ensuring quality PRP services, the MPS supports efforts to create parity between youth and adult PRP services by increasing the minimum number of reimbursable PRP services each month. Doing so will give children more access to services and add a commitment to providers to reach a higher minimum number of services. **We offer one amendment to the bill. We suggest that language is altered from WHO IS LIVING WITH A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR RELATIVE WHO IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S CARE to WHO HAS A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR RELATIVE WHO IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S CARE as not to exclude children who might be temporarily living with an adult who is not their guardian.**

If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee